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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1953.

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL.

Council Offices, Salcombe, South Devon.

Telephone: SALCOMBE 208.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, South Devon.

CLERK TO M. O. H.

Miss J. Palk.

Telephone: KINGSBRIDGE 2004.

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SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices, Salcombe, South Devon.

Telephone: SALCOMBE 63.

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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. W.C.SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health : Dr. R.H.DUMMETT, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : Mr. R.J.NICHOLS, A.M.I.S.E., A.I.A.S., M.R.San.I.

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

The health of the District has continued to be satisfactory.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) : 1,181.

Population : The Register General's estimate of the resident population - 2,444.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) according to the Rate Books : 912.

Rateable Value : £24,358.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £96.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :	TOTAL	M	F
Legitimate	24	8	16
Illegitimate	1	1	-

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population : 10.22.

STILL BIRTHS : Nil. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births : Nil.

DEATHS : 36. Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 14.73.

DEATHS (from Puerperal Causes) : Nil.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year of age : 1.

DEATH RATE - All Infants per 1,000 Live Births : 80.00
Legitimate Infants per 1,000
Legitimate Live Births : 83.33
Illegitimate Infant per 1,000
Illegitimate Live Births : Nil.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 4 weeks of age : 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

		M	F
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	1	-
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease.	-	-
4.	Diphtheria.	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough.	-	-
6.	Meningoccal Infections.	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
8.	Measles.	-	-
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	-	-
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	4	-
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast.	-	-
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.	-	-
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	3	2
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	1	1
16.	Diabetes.	-	-
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	3	1
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina.	2	1
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease.	-	1
20.	Other Heart Disease.	2	1
21.	Other Circulatory Disease.	-	-
22.	Influenza.	1	-
23.	Pneumonia.	-	1
24.	Bronchitis.	-	1
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	-	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.	-	-
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.	1	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis.	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate.	3	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations.	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases.	-	2
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents.	-	-
34.	All other Accidents.	-	1
35.	Suicide.	1	-
36.	Homicide and Operations of War.	-	-
		22	14

The conditions of occupation and of environment have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality. Salcombe is well-known as a holiday resort and yachting centre. During the summer months - June to September - the population is practically doubled by the influx of visitors.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural and Urban Districts, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and Medical Officer of the South Devon Water Board).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service provided a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, on the 3rd June, 1953, for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice-cream and foodstuffs etc.

This new Laboratory is of great assistance, and I am grateful for their willing co-operation at all times.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION are carried out through the General Practitioner Service or at Schools, School Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres by the County Council through the County Health Services. Supplies of Diphtheria Antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45, St. David's Hill, Exeter, and Vaccine Lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provide 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding districts :-

Men's Ward	6 beds
Women's Ward	6 beds
Children's Cots	2
Private Wards	2 (1 bed each).

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the Scott Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the Plymouth Ambulance Service on behalf of the Devon County Council.

MIDWIVES.

The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There is one practising Midwife in the district.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

There is a centre in Salcombe which is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT.

At the Venereal Disease Department, City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or 'bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the Ministry of Health. There is one such Practitioner in Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

X-RAYS.

The Regional Hospital Board have apparatus for examinations at their Chest Clinics at Exeter, Torquay, Barnstaple and Plymouth.

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

The Devon County Council maintain a residential home for the rehabilitation of delicate and debilitated children at Oaklands Park, Dawlish. There is also an open-air school for delicate children at Torquay.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Orthopaedic Association as in-patients at Exeter and Plymouth. For out-patients, there is a Clinic at Kingsbridge and the South West Clinic which deals with this district as well, is held at Hartley House, Hannamead, Plymouth.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The Ambulance Service throughout Devon is operated in accordance with Section 27 (2) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, through the agency of the Voluntary Organisations. Infectious cases in the Plymouth Infectious Area are carried, by agreement, in the Plymouth Infectious Ambulance.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1953.

Disease.	Total cases notified.
Measles.	142
Whooping Cough.	3
	145

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1953.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES. Respiratory.		NEW CASES. Non-Respiratory.		DEATHS. Respiratory.		DEATHS. Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 70	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
70 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

The source of the water for the district is at South Brent, and is supplied and the distribution is now maintained by the South Devon Water Board, being satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The service reservoir on the Berry was drained and thoroughly cleansed. 29 samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination.

The results were as follows :-

Ministry of Health classification for piped supplies.

Class 1.	Class 2.	Class 3.	Class 4.	TOTAL.
20	4	3	1	28

One sample was taken of spring water in the district, which showed being grossly polluted.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of refuse in all parts of the district has been carried out. The work has been commenced on the Embankment Wall including the refuse tip.

HOUSING.

8 flats were completed during the year, all of which were two-bedroom type.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :-

1 tin fish; 47 tins fruit; and 52 tins meat.

BAKEHOUSES.

The four bakehouses were inspected regularly and were kept in a satisfactory condition.

ICE-CREAM.

23 samples of ice-cream were taken - all satisfactory.

OYSTER LAYING IN THE ESTUARY.

In July, 1950, the Port Health Authority approved the proposal of the Whitstable Oyster Company to lay oysters in the bed of the Estuary.

The Company gave a written undertaking that all oysters taken from the Estuary would be forwarded direct to Whitstable for passing through their cleansing tanks before sale to the public.

SCHOOLS.

There are three schools in the district. The sanitary accommodation at two of the schools has much improved.

During the year, 5 notices were received referring to 32 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

DISINFECTION.

Routine disinfection has been carried out after all notified cases of Infectious Disease.

NUISANCES.

16 complaints of nuisances were received, all of which were dealt with by informal action.

CAMPING SITES.

A count was taken in August, 1953, of the caravans and tents in the district and the result was as follows :-

Beadon Road.	
O.S. 217/222.	9 caravans.
	16 tents.
O.S. 276.	5 caravans.
	22 tents.
O.S. 332.	2 caravans.
Hanger Mill.	
O.S. 325.	1 caravan.
	1 tent.
O.S. 354.	8 tents.
O.S. 355.	15 tents.
O.S. 347/346.	17 tents.
Moult Hill (Collaton Road).	
O.S. 402.	7 caravans.
	16 tents.
O.S. 400.	10 tents.
O.S. 369.	1 caravan.
O.S. 358.	1 caravan.
	1 tent.
Southern Mill, South Sands.	
O.S. 441/448.	6 caravans.
	35 tents.
Main Road.	
O.S. 207.	3 tents.
O.S. 277.	1 caravan.
	1 tent.
Ilbertstowe.	
O.S. 188.	10 tents.

SEWERAGE.

The numerous small outfalls in the Harbour continue to exist and are periodically cleared and kept in order.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises (1)	No. in Register. (3)	Inspections. (4)	No. of written Notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted. (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	7	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Loc l Authority.	17	10	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	24	17	-	-

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES.
Medical Officer of Health.

JULY, 1954.